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Weekly Bulletin

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UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL SCHOOL
CALIFORNIA

as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
ice for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. II, No. 5 MARCH 17, 1923

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

CIAL NOTICE TO HEALTH OFFICERS.

**abies, virulent smallpox and epi-
c encephalitis are assuming a new
ortance, and should receive your
ntion immediately. The first
ed disease is more prevalent in
rnia now than ever in the his-
of the state. The situation
ires the adoption of effective con-
measures wherever the disease
ears. Vaccination against small-
should be undertaken extensively
rever there are large numbers of
accinated persons. Conditions in
h and Colorado at the present
make this procedure necessary.
demic encephalitis is increasing
ughout the United States. There
lso an increase in the number of
s that have occurred recently in
fornia and special watch should be
for any new cases that may
ear. This issue of the bulletin
ains considerable information con-
ing the extent of the prevalence
these three diseases. The State
rd of Health is ready to give
stance to any community in work
aining to prevention and control.**

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llpox Warning
uld Be Heeded.

ublic health authorities throughout
United States have predicted, during
past two years, that smallpox in the
future would appear in more viru-
form. This prediction was not made by means of the supernatural. It was based upon the careful analysis of statistical material, together with an exact knowledge of the epidemiology of smallpox and the methods used in its control. A major factor in the formulation of this forecast is the failure of a large part of the population to take advantage of the sure protection that vaccination provides. This failure, together with the importation of virulent smallpox from Mexico, has led to the development of conditions in the United States, particularly in the Rocky Mountain region, that justify prompt action upon the part of all health officers.

There were 23 cases of virulent smallpox, with 10 deaths, in Salt Lake City during February. In Denver, during the same month, there were 13 cases with 4 deaths. This severe form of the disease was prevalent in Denver during 1922, but has been reduced greatly through the very large number of persons who have been vaccinated—200,000 in 14 months. In December, 252 cases of smallpox appeared in Denver with 92 deaths—a fatality rate of 37 per cent. Kansas City suffered a large number of cases and deaths from virulent smallpox in 1922 and a large number of cases and deaths from this disease have occurred recently in Arizona.

Two known fatal cases of virulent smallpox came into California last year direct from Denver. Symptoms of the disease did not appear until after arrival in this state but there were clear histories of contact with smallpox cases in Denver. Through prompt action upon the part of an efficient local health officer, the immediate vaccination of all contacts, the further progress of the disease in California was checked.

The question, at the present time, lies in the uncertainty of being able to keep this easily prevented disease out of the state, with so large a proportion of our population unvaccinated. To be sure, we can wait until the extensive appearance of the disease, in severe form, and then adopt the rigorous quarantine of cases and vaccination of all contacts, together with the quarantine of contacts who refuse to be vaccinated. The detrimental advertising to the state and to the cities where the disease might occur, however, would be most disastrous from a commercial standpoint. The best and wisest course lies in the adoption of preventive measures now.

The immediate vaccination of all unvaccinated persons in California should be undertaken at once by every health officer in the state. Whether vaccinations are performed in free clinics or by private practitioners, is immaterial. The important thing is to secure as many successful vaccinations as possible in the shortest possible time. The adoption of methods by which these results may be secured rests entirely with the local health officer. The California State Board of Health goes on record at this time urging the necessity of immediately securing the general vaccination of all unvaccinated persons in the state in order that virulent smallpox may be barred from California. A number of national conventions will be held in this state during the coming month. For this reason, if for no other, every possible action toward preventing the appearance of this form of the disease should be undertaken without delay.

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Rabies a Real Problem Now.

The control of rabies in California at the present time constitutes a most serious public health problem, for the reason that the disease is not only prevalent among dogs but it is also exceedingly common in coyotes. Investigations made last week by the California State Board of Health show that there have been considerable losses in live stock in Modoc County since the first of the year. One owner lost 15 head of cattle and another one 5 head. Altogether, at least fifty cases of rabies have occurred in the county since January 1st. In 1915, Modoc and Lassen counties suffered losses of $100,000 in live stock because of rabies. It cost $10,000 to bring the disease under control at that time but this small sum of money saved the live stock industry of these two counties. In that year 1805 sheep and 2495 lambs were destroyed by coyotes. In order to bring the disease under control it was necessary to kill 7160 coyotes, 1091 dogs, 790 domestic cats, 430 bob cats and 496 pole cats. A total of 66,910 poisoned baits were placed, for which 2602 rabbits and 2134 squirrels were used.

While the disease has been under control in California since 1916, reports from Nevada and eastern Oregon indicate that rabies has been quite prevalent among coyotes and other animals in those states during the past two years. Newspaper reports received at the time of this writing show that rabid coyotes are now appearing in Siskiyou and Shasta counties. Conditions are such that it may become necessary for the adoption of stringent measures in the control of the disease. The United States Biological Survey, operating in Nevada, has assured the officials of Modoc County that a number of trappers will be placed along the California-Nevada line. The State Department of Agriculture has two men trapping coyotes in Modoc County at present. The United States Forest Service has offered to cooperate with the county officials in this work.

The Board of Supervisors of Modoc County has passed an ordinance requiring the vaccination of dogs against rabies. This measure is similar to the one recently adopted in Kings County. It is believed that partial results will be secured through the rigid enforcement of this measure but it will be impossible to bring rabies under control in the counties of northeastern California until such time as extensive operations in the eradication of coyotes are undertaken. The new ordinance in Modoc County places the enforcement under the jurisdiction of the county health officer and he is authorized to employ three or more deputies in the enforcement of the provisions of the act. It is probable that the city of Alturas, in Modoc County, will adopt a similar piece of legislation.

At no time in the history of California has rabies been more prevalent than it is now. There have been 5 deaths of human beings from this disease since the first of January and last year there were 568 known cases in animals within California. Unofficial reports just received indicate that rabies has just begun to make its appearance among dogs in Imperial and Santa Barbara counties. It is apparent that active control measures must be adopted immediately in nearly every part of the state. Stanislaus, Fresno and San Joaquin counties, during the past few years, have conducted excellent demonstrations of how rabies may be brought under control. Kings County is, at the present time, supplying an excellent demonstration of work along these lines. Berkeley has adopted and is enforcing an effective vaccination ordinance. Other counties and cities must fall rapidly into line in the control of this acute disease before its prevalence becomes more extensive.

Epidemic Encephalitis Increasing.

Epidemic encephalitis is showing marked increases in many parts of the United States. Following is a short summary of the numbers of cases that occurred during the four weeks ended March 3rd:

Connecticut	37 cases
Maryland	29 cases
Massachusetts	36 cases
Minnesota	17 cases
Oregon	17 cases
Washington	11 cases
Wisconsin	11 cases
North Dakota	6 cases

Vancouver, B. C., reported 12 cases of epidemic encephalitis during the four weeks ended February 17th and Winnipeg, Manitoba, reported 77 cases of this disease during the six weeks ended February 17th. There have been 33 cases of the disease reported in California this year. Because of the fact that a large number of cases have ocurred recently and are present now in California as well as in the Pacific Northwest, it is important that all health officers be on the alert to detect and report promptly any cases that may occur in this state.

The outbreaks enumerated above are the first to be recorded since the spring of 1920. In commenting upon the increased prevalence of this disease the Journal of the American Medical Association states, editorially, "It is agreed that the disease is caused by a microbe having a minute filtrable form that permits transmission by means of the filtrable virus to animals. It seems proved, also, that the virus exists in the nasopharynx, that the disease is mildly contagious, and that the usual period of incubation is 10 days. No one now regards seriously the view of the English epidemiologist Crookshank, that epidemic encephalitis and poliomyelitis are caused by the same virus or variations of the same virus. The relationship between influenza and encephalitis is most difficult to define. It does not seem reasonable that the appearance of the two diseases, in epidemic form, at the same time, now and in the past, can be a mere coincidence. There must be some connection, but what is it? Encephalitis is certainly not a mere sequel of influenza, as most victims of the former do not give a history of having had the latter. Nor do encephalitis patients present the leuokpenia and tendency to a peculiar form of pneumonia so characteristic of influenza. Furthermore, there is a form of encephalitis directly connected with influenza, which differs from the epidemic form in being more sudden and severe in its onset, and in having more severe and permanent focal symptoms, more signs of a complicating meningitis, and a marked tendency to multiple minute hemorrhages in the brain and sometimes to suppuration."

* * *

"To my mind devotion to the public welfare is a thing which should be expected and not a thing to be specially rewarded. We must demand of public officials that they recognize their obligations to society. They are servants of the people, not masters because of the offices they hold. There must be found men whose sole ambitions will be not to rule or control, but to understand and to help the world.

"Personally, I am entitled to no praise or reward for anything that I may have done as a public official. On the contrary, I am deeply indebted to the Mayor and to the public for the unmeasured privilege of serving those who have needed the sympathy and practical assistance of the Commissioner of Health. My work has been a daily joy and to do it has been its own reward."—Dr. Royal S. Copeland, U. S. Senator, former health commissioner, New York City.

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The success which will attend attempts at the control of tuberculosis by preventive measures aimed at the infectious agent will depend upon our realization of the magnitude of the program required to this end, and on the thoroughness with which this program is applied. Desultory, scattered and unrelated measures will accomplish little. Organization, cooperation and coordination are the essentials of success. What we need is the thorough application of a well-thought-out program, one in which all the different agencies, such as registration, the dispensary, the visiting nurse, the open-air camp, the fresh-air school, the sanatorium and the hospital for the advanced cases work together as a harmonious and effective whole and not independently of each other.—E. L. Trudeau.

LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW.

ANTHRAX
BERI-BERI
BOTULISM
CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHICKENPOX
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DENGUE
DIPHTHERIA
DYSENTERY
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
ERYSIPELAS
FLUKES
FOOD POISONING
GERMAN MEASLES
GLANDERS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*
HOOKWORM
INFLUENZA
JAUNDICE, INFECTIOUS
LEPROSY
MALARIA
MEASLES
MUMPS
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
PARATYPHOID FEVER
PELLAGRA
PLAGUE
PNEUMONIA
POLIOMYELITIS
RABIES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
SYPHILIS*
TETANUS
TRACHOMA
TUBERCULOSIS
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
WHOOPING COUGH
YELLOW FEVER

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DIPHTHERIA
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
LEPROSY
PLAGUE
POLIOMYELITIS
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
YELLOW FEVER

***Reported by office number. Name and address not required.**

MORBIDITY.*

Smallpox.

Seventeen cases of smallpox have been reported from the following localities: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 1, Oakland 3, Orange County 1, Pittsburg 1, Roseville 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Stockton 1, Sutter County 1, Tehama County 1, Ventura County 2, Vernon 2.

Typhoid Fever.

Six cases of typhoid fever have been reported, distributed over the State as follows: Oakland 1, Pasadena 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 2, Tracy 1.

Leprosy.

Fresno reported one case of leprosy.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

Fresno reported one case of cerebrospinal meningitis and San Francisco reported two cases of the same disease.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

Three cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, two being from Berkeley and one from Sacramento.

Poliomyelitis.

Fresno reported one case of poliomyelitis.

***From reports received to date for last week.**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1923				1922			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending March 10 received by March 13	Week ending			Reports for week ending March 11 received by March 14
	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	March 3		Feb. 18	Feb. 25	March 4	
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	1
Chickenpox	207	240	270	196	199	171	176	149
Diphtheria	165	171	150	105	188	160	139	143
Dysentery (Bacillary)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epidemic Encephalitis	1	5	3	3	1	2	1	1
Gonorrhoea	69	68	132	43	35	60	118	93
Influenza	1073	1268	985	428	5238	13195	12197	5249
Leprosy	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malaria	1	2	1	0	4	2	0	0
Measles	396	489	572	338	25	24	23	22
Mumps	24	11	33	25	102	106	109	67
Pneumonia	195	228	199	89	197	232	300	227
Poliomyelitis	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2
Scarlet Fever	196	214	189	152	147	157	132	89
Smallpox	11	19	23	17	98	81	54	52
Syphilis	74	76	117	50	36	87	135	77
Tuberculosis	129	154	75	89	138	185	159	129
Typhoid Fever	5	5	6	6	6	8	14	5
Whooping Cough	103	116	110	89	47	41	56	56
Totals	2653	3065	2868	1635	6464	14516	13616	6362

24245 3-23 5500 CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE